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ECA'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING, STATISTICS, DEMOGRAPHY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Following past practices, the present paper gives a highlight of the ECA statistical assistance activities in the fields of planning, statistics, demography and information science since the last session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers in January 1990. It supplements the paper on United Nations Technical Co-operation relating to Development Planning, Statistics and Population in Africa, 1990-1991 (E/ECA/PSD.7/8) prepared by the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) at the United Nations Headquarters.

2. During the period under review, donor agencies provided funds to finance ECA technical assistance to member States in the fields indicated above: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Government of Canada and International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The contributions of the various donor agencies by project are shown in Annex I. However, resources were also made available from the United Nations regular budget and the regular programme of technical co-operation for ECA technical assistance activities. A list of advisers in post during the biennium 1990-1991 is given in Annex II.

II. ECA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PLANNING

3. Technical assistance to countries in the field of development planning has been accorded high priority in the Commission's work programme. Assistance in this field has also been provided by the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), a subsidiary body of ECA. The nature of the assistance extends over a wide range of areas, in particular preparation of development and recovery plans, policy formulation, investment programmes, formulation of regional development strategies, donor supported programmes of least developed countries, and forecasting systems, outlooks and perspectives, economic sectoral modelling and training.

4. The objective of the assistance is to help countries in the formulation and elaboration of appropriate policy framework within coherent and consistent development programmes and plans. Among the basic aim of the technical assistance programme is the strengthening and building of planning capabilities at the national level, in particular upgrading planning apparatus, methodologies and techniques. Within this framework, the Commission developed quite a number of programmes of Action for revitalization and accelerating development in the African region. The broad principles and objectives of these programmes were translated into sharply focused, practical and operational set of activities to be implemented in African countries.

5. In this context, the Commission has increasingly focused on the undertaking of in-depth analyses and synthesis of development issues with the view to identifying and bringing to the attention of governments and their development partners emerging economic and social issues of African and international concern. The regular activities in this area relate to the preparation of annual surveys of economic and social conditions in Africa and the annual economic report on Africa to enable countries to share development experiences and promote formulation of appropriate economic and social policies; and the development of planning techniques including projections and forecasts appropriate to the economic and social situation in Africa to enable countries to formulate appropriate and coherent development programmes. The activities also include training of African planning specialists in development planning, plan preparation, methodology and implementation techniques as part of the efforts to strengthening the capacity for building sound planning machineries in African countries.

A. ECA Technical Assistance

6. Specifically, the technical assistance has been provided in the following areas:

(i) In the field of short-term forecasting and outlook, ECA continued to provide assistance to countries to develop their own capabilities for establishing forecasting systems. So far the system has been installed in three African countries and efforts are still continuing to follow-up on the implementation. The system is presently in its final stage of implementation in the Congo and follow-up missions are planned for its installation. Now the ECA is in the process of developing a reference macro-economic model for policy design and economic management with the view to enabling African countries to monitor short-term development and assess their policy implications. The macro-economic model aims to bring new focus on short-term forecasting systems by putting more emphasis on the capital and financial accounts in order to fully analyze the impact of the structural adjustment programmes.

(ii) In the area of planning and policy design, ECA continued to undertake studies on policy formulation to assist countries in the preparation of appropriate adjustment programmes and policy reforms. Three policy instruments were so far analyzed and their development impact assessed to insure that adjustment should be undertaken as part of a long-term process that need to address basic supply constraints as well as social issues. These policy issues relate to

differential interest rates policies and selective credit control, multiple exchange rate system, and price support policies for food self-sufficiency in Africa and efforts are still continuing to expand work on other areas.

(iii) In the area of research programme on African development issues, emphasis was placed on undertaking in-depth studies on topical development problems in order to help countries in their search for resolving such problems. The most important of them relate to a study on the impact of the Gulf crisis on the African countries, a study on the role of the informal sector, a study on macro-economic management markets in the context of stabilization programmes, etc.

(iv) On the operationalization of the regional development strategies, ECA organized an expert group meeting of African economists to assess Africa's development during the 1980s in the light of the principles of the Lagos Plan of Action as well as an expert group meeting of African economist to review the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development.

(v) Advisory services as well as assistance by way of participation in specific meetings were provided to countries in connection with structural adjustment programmes, planning and forecasting. In particular, assistance was provided to a subregional seminar on the impact of structural adjustment in the area of education in Sahel, a workshop on structural adjustment policies in one country, and a course on structural adjustment in one research institution. ECA also participated in a number of international meetings in favour of African countries, in particular the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Group of LDCs - preparatory committee for the Second United Nations Conference on LDCs, the twenty-sixth session of the Committee for development planning. ECA extended collaborative and technical support to the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) in respect of the work of its Technical Advisory Committee that revised the activities of the centre and made recommendations to the ACARTSOD Board of Governors. ECA also extended collaborative and technical support to the World Health Organization (WHO/AFRO) through participation in the meeting of the African Advisory Committee on Health Development (AACHD), which reviewed African health development strategies and plans of action in the region, health development policies and the WHO programme of work and programme budget policy in the African region.

(vi) Moreover as part of its efforts to foster development in the African region, ECA has been continuously monitoring the progress of implementation of the special programme for the development of the least developed countries of the region. The basic objective of the programme for LDCs is to assist the countries in their planning and programming efforts for the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) which include advisory missions to countries on plan formulation and implementation, undertaking of in-depth studies of their economies, identification of technical co-operation projects to be submitted to donors for funding, as well as follow-up missions for monitoring periodic review and evaluation of the effective implementation of the SNPA.

B. IDEP Technical Assistance

7. In the area of training planning specialists, IDEP provided training on the techniques of macro-economic policy analysis, management and planning 74 trainees from 27 African countries in the academic year 1989/1990 and 64 trainees from 25 African countries during 1990/1991. The programme curriculum incorporated courses and course modules dealing with topics related to the current socio-economic crisis confronting African countries and to efforts at promoting long-term planning in order to attain economic recovery and transformation.

8. The Nine-Month Basic Diploma programme emphasized the basic principles of planning including courses in quantitative techniques and application in planning, economic development theories and strategies, project evaluation, comprehensive and regional planning. This was followed by a set of optional specialization programmes, usually of three months duration, aimed at training participants in the techniques of planning and management of various priority sectors of the African economy. During the period under review, two of these programmes were offered, namely: (i) Industrial Development in Africa, and (ii) Population, Human Resources and Development in Africa.

9. The training offered by IDEP to planners stresses practical application with hands-on experience emphasized through extensive use of case studies, computer applications, field work and surveys. During the period, several field visits were organized to survey development plans and projects. Trainees were taken to a rural development project, SAED, in the St. Louis area in Senegal where they visited an irrigation project, a rice mill, a water pumping station, an environmental project as well as the Diama hydroelectric dam. They also visited the Gambia where they had discussions with officials in the ministries of Finance,

Economic Affairs and Planning and Agriculture and were briefed on various public investment projects. In the course of the visit, they had the opportunity to see development projects in irrigation, transportation, education and health, and agricultural and rural development projects. Finally, as part of the course on Regional Planning, the trainees made a one-day trip to the region of Taiba where they visited a community development project, the district and urban planning zones, as well as the phosphates industry and the chemical plant in the region. These visits were designed to emphasize the practical and real aspects of the formal courses so that participants could be exposed to concrete development issues and problems.

10. IDEP has also been involved in organizing high level policy-oriented seminars and workshops on elements of development planning targeted at senior public executives with direct responsibility for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. One such workshop was organized for 34 senior officials and executives drawn from Haiti and nine francophone sub-Saharan African countries: Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Coté d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Senegal and Togo. All were brought in as country teams of 3-4 from the ministries of Finance and Planning, Agriculture, Education, Health, Transport as well as the Central Bank. The workshop was aimed at improving their capacity to plan and execute medium-term or multi-year public investment plans and programmes and how to integrate these with annual plans and budgets consistent with national priorities and resources.

11. Within the framework of the activities of the Transport and Communication Division of ECA, IDEP hosted a senior policy workshop on the "Planning and strengthening of human resources and institutional development capacities management in the transport and communications sector". This joint ECA/IDEP workshop brought together 30 senior officials from French-speaking West African countries (Senegal, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger), as well as representatives from the following regional and international organizations: ECA, UNCTAD, ICAO, IMO, and ITV. The main objective of this workshop, which constituted one stage in the implementation of the UNDP/ECA project 89/023, was to find out why during the course of the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa, 1978-1988, the region could not train enough officials and develop the institutional framework to adequately use and maintain transport and communications infrastructures and services.

12. Among the consultancy assignments undertaken during the period, there were some that contributed to direct assistance to planning in some African countries. This included an assignment from ADB on Zambia's development planning experience and future economic prospects that was undertaken in June 1990 by a team of experts, among whom was one IDEP staff member. Another assignment was from UNFPA which requested a population planning programme review and strategy development for Niçeria (1992-96)

and IDEP's staff member, the UNFPA/IDEP Project Co-ordinator, led a mission to Lagos to implement the project in March 1991.

13. During the period 1989/90, the core budget for IDEP's training, research and consultancy activities on development planning was funded by African member States and the UNDP. Over the 1990/91 period, the core budget was financed by African member States and a special grant from the United Nations regular budget. During both periods under review, fellowships for the training programmes were funded mainly by UNDP, CFTC, USAID, CIDA, and World Bank, among others. UNFPA continued to provide the resources, including fellowships, for the IDEP/UNFPA training and research project on Population, Human Resources and Development in Africa. Funding of the seminars and workshops on planning issues was mainly from bilateral and multilateral extra-budgetary sources.

III. ECA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN STATISTICS

14. The main objective of ECA technical assistance in the field of statistics is to assist African countries is establishing and/or developing a durable infrastructure for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical data required for planning, monitoring and evaluating social and economic development programmes.

15. During the period under review, the major ECA technical assistance activities continued to be carried out under three main projects, namely the Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA), financed by UNDP, the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS), financed by UNFPA, and the Census Training Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa, financed by the Government of Canada through UNFPA. There is also another project attached to the "Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC)" in Central Africa. It should be indicated that some resources were also made available from the United Nations regular budget and regular programme of technical co-operation for technical assistance activities in statistics.

16. Technical assistance was provided in the following areas: statistical training, national accounts and basic economic statistics, household surveys, population censuses and civil registration systems and vital statistics collection.

A. Statistical training

17. Within the framework of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), missions were undertaken by two statistical training advisers under the SDPA project and some staff members of the Statistics Division to Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Lesotho, Mali, Niger, United Republic of Tanzania

(Mainland and Zanzibar), Uganda and Zambia with the purpose of:

(i) Reviewing their in-service statistical training programmes at middle level training programmes,

ii) Establishing linkages of in-service training programmes with STPA centres or universities,

(iii) Assessing middle level training needs, and

(iv) Participating in advisory board meetings or donors conferences of STPA centres.

18. Teaching support was also provided to national statistical offices and middle level statistical training centres in Burundi Central African Republic and Congo and to two STPA centres namely the Institut africain et mauricien de statistique et d'économie appliquée (IAMSEA), Kigali, Rwanda, and the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE), Makerere, Uganda.

19. Two seminars for trainers involved in middle level/in-service statistical training were organized, one for French- and Portuguese-speaking African countries at ECA Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, in December 1990, and the other for English-speaking countries in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in September 1991.

20. Issues relating to co-operative development of teaching programmes and to development of statistical training in general continued to be discussed at meetings of Directors of STPA centres. The seventh meeting was organized in Addis Ababa in December 1991 and its report is being submitted to the Joint Conference under a separate agenda item.

21. Finally, it should be indicated that six new fellowships for training of trainers for STPA centres were awarded during the period under review.

B. National accounts and basic economic statistics

22. In the area of national accounts and basic economic statistics 30 missions were fielded to 20 member States. The objectives of these missions were (i) to assist in the development and improvement of basic economic statistics, including external trade statistics, industrial statistics and agricultural statistics, (ii) to advise and assist in the compilation of national accounts data and (iii) to provide on-the-job training and build up national capability and self-reliance in the production, application and dissemination of national accounts and basic economic data designed to meet the needs of policy makers. It should be pointed out however, that a high turn-over of staff in a number of countries continues to impede the achievement of the objective of self-reliance in this area.

23. An intergovernmental seminar on the review of the United Nations System of National Accounts was held at ECA Headquarters, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 1990. It was attended by participants from the following member States: Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The seminar discussed, inter-alia, technical issues which constituted important elements or important changes in the revised system as compared with the 1968 SNA, special aspects of the system related to the African region and aspects related to the implementation of the revised SNA.

24. Also, a training seminar on International Trade Statistics for English-speaking Government Statisticians was organized by ECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November/December 1990, with financial support of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC) and technical support by the United Nations Statistical Office and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). The following countries participated in the seminar: Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritius, Nigeria, Seychelles, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The seminar discussed, among others, conceptual framework of international trade statistics, data collection, data processing (covering ASYCUDA and EUROTRACE software packages and trade statistics data bases) and international trade indexes.

C. Household surveys

25. The progress in the implementation of the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) and related issues will be considered under a separate agenda item of the Joint Conference. Assistance in the area of household surveys continued to be provided by a household survey specialist and a statistical training adviser/household survey specialist under the SDPA project as well as a regional adviser in household surveys provided by the International Labour Office (ILO).

26. About 34 technical and advisory missions to 20 member States were undertaken during the biennium 1990-1991 in this area, excluding the missions carried out by the RASDS team which will be reported later on in the present document. The objectives of these missions were to review current household survey programmes and/or formulate future survey programmes, to advise on sample design, questionnaire design and methodology and to provide assistance in the tabulation, analysis and dissemination of survey data. A number of these missions were undertaken jointly with other agencies, particularly the United Nations Statistical Office and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

27. It would be appropriate to acknowledge here the valuable contribution of ILO to the development of household surveys in the African region by making available to ECA the services of a competent and dedicated adviser. It is hoped that ILO will continue to provide such services. Other agencies are also urged to follow this example for the benefit of the countries of the region.

C. Population censuses, demographic surveys and civil registration and civil statistics

28. Ninety-six missions were undertaken to 40 member States under the RASDS project during the period 1990-1991. Twenty-two of these were related to assistance on organization, planning and conduct of population and housing censuses and demographic surveys, 25 on census/survey cartography, 14 on census/survey data processing, 14 on development and improvement of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection, 10 on sampling techniques and four on programme review and strategy development. Seven missions were to support seminars and workshops organized by member States and/or international institutions.

29. Within the framework of the project Census Training Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa, 8 national training courses in data processing, one in census organization and one on census evaluation and quality control procedures were organized during the period under reference. They were attended by a total of 130 nationals from statistical/census offices, planning and other departments.

30. Three regional/subregional workshops were also conducted under the same project during the period under review. The first workshop, on census cartography, was organized for French- and Portuguese-speaking West African countries in Lome, Togo, in July 1990. It was attended by 14 participants from nine countries. The second workshop, also on census cartography, was organized for English-speaking West African countries plus Mozambique and Namibia in Ile-Ife, Nigeria, in November 1991. It was attended by 16 participants from seven countries. Finally, the third Workshop, on economic activity topics in population censuses, was organized jointly by ECA, UN Statistical Office and ILO for French- and Portuguese-speaking African countries in Cotonou, Benin, in December 1991. At the time of writing the present report, 16 trainees from thirteen countries were expected to attend this workshop. ECA also provided the services of three regional advisers, two in census cartography and one in data processing, to participate as resource persons in workshops organized in Ottawa/Canada in October 1990 (on census cartography) and in September/October 1991 (on data processing) by Statistics Canada as part of the international component of the project Census Training Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa.

31. Finally, at the request of the institutions concerned, ECA sent one regional adviser to act as a resource person at (i) a regional workshop on the use of SPSS/PC + software package for French-speaking African countries, organized in February 1991 at RIPS, Accra, Ghana, by the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) and the Union for African Population Studies (UAPS), and (ii) a training course on the use of IMPS for the processing of population census data for French-speaking participants, organized in July/August 1991 in Washington D.C., USA, by the International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC).

32. ECA continued to be the executing agency for the project "Assistance to UDEAC in the field of population". During the period under review, the project staff undertook 15 missions to UDEAC member States to provide assistance in formulation of census project documents, monitoring and evaluation of projects on demographic analysis, population units and maternal and child health (MCH) and in conduct of national seminars on data analysis and population and development.

33. A tripartite review meeting of the project, held in Bangui, Central African Republic, in October 1991 commended the project staff for the satisfactory results achieved despite difficult conditions due to lack of resources. It recommended that the project should play more active role in co-ordination of population matters in UDEAC countries and act as a centre of documentation and information for related national projects.

IV. ECA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DEMOGRAPHY

A. Regional Demographic Advisory Services

34. The main objectives of the Regional Demographic Advisory Services are to assist the ECA member States in evaluating, analyzing and disseminating data from population censuses, surveys and vital registration systems, to assist in formulating, executing, evaluating and assessing population related projects and programmes, to assist in the integration of population variables in the development planning and policy formulation and to assist in the training of nationals of the member States in population. The countries which received such services during the period under review are as follows:

- Project formulation, evaluation and assessment: Angola, Mauritius and Niger;

- Data evaluation and Analysis and integration of population variables into development planning: Benin, Djibouti, Gabon, Mauritania, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Lesotho, Seychelles, Burundi Cape Verde, Mauritius, Egypt, Uganda, Zambia, Libya Sierra Leone, Chad and Niger;

- Training and human resources development:
  Subregional workshops in the use of micro-computers systems for demographic analysis and dissemination in Accra, Ghana and Yaoundé, Cameroon.
  Workshops and delivery of lectures in Niger, Central African Republic, Zanzibar, Cairo Demographic Centre, Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre, Dae-es-Salaam, Makerere University, Demographic Centre, Addis Ababa and RIPS, Accra.

35. There were three regional advisors in post (two Anglophone and one Francophone) during the period.

B. The Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS) Accra, Ghana

36. RIPS continued to provide demographic training to nationals of the English-speaking African countries. The training workshop on use of micro-computers in demographic analysis was also conducted at RIPS in collaboration with ECA. About 20 participants from all over Africa benefitted from the workshop.

37. During the academic year 19909/91 about 50 fellowships were awarded candidates for the M.A., M. Phil and Ph.D. programmes. The main formal programme for training, the M.A. had 44 fellowships, with four in M. Phil and two were continuing their Ph.D. programmes. There were a total of 12 females among the student body at RIPS.

38. The ECA secretariat continued to be responsible for the management of the Institute. UNFPA,k as before continued to be the main source of funding. The Government of Ghana continued to provide resources to support the local component of the budget. Contributions from member States to the budget of RIPS were not as forthcoming as expected. For this reason the Institute would find it difficult to run smoothly.

C. The "Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD)"

39. IFORD continued to provide demographic training to nationals of the French-speaking African countries. The main programme continued to be the two year course leading to the Diploma in demography. Students were admitted every other year rather than annually since 1987. In 1991, 27 students who started their course in 1989 were awarded the Diploma. In the same year 35 students were admitted to the two year course.

40. IFORD continues to organize the one year introductory course into research, for graduates of the Diploma course. Four students were admitted for this course in 1990 and two in 1991.

Four workshops on analysis of census data were organized in collaboration with ECA for member States in Burkina Faso (1988), Cote d'Ivoire (1989), Congo (1990), Cameroon (1990) and Central African Republic (1991).

41. The ECA secretariat continued to be responsible for the management of IFORD and organized a meeting of its Governing Council in March 1990 in Yaoundé. UNFPA continued to be the main source of funding and provided US$897,165 in 1990 and US$846,500 in 1991.

D. The "Centre d'études et de recherche sur la population pour le développement (CERPOD)"

42. The five year programme of CERPOD covers studies and research, training, scientific information, technical assistance to Sahelian countries in population policies and international scientific co-operation. The Djamena Programme of Action on Population and Development was adopted in 1988 by Sahelian Countries.

43. ECA continued to be the executing agency for funds provided by UNFPA. These amounted to US$309,000 in 1990 and US$212,250 in 1991.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN INFORMATION SCIENCES

44. The Pan African Development Information System (PADIS), is the major source in Africa for technical assistance in information sciences. The objectives of PADIS technical assistance are:

- To assist member States in developing/strengthening national capacities for collection, storage and utilization of data on development through advisory services, training and user services;

- To promote the exchange of information for development among African member States;

- To promote the improvement of information infrastructure in member States in order to strengthen bibliographic control of national development information output;

- To train information specialists at national, subregional and regional levels in order to upgrade skills and introduce modern methods of information handling;

- To promote the utilization of common norms and standards of information handling in the region in order to ensure compatibility with international information systems.

45. PADIS' funds for technical assistance come from a variety of sources. During the period under review, PADIS received funding for its technical assistance activities on behalf of member States from:

(i) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): three projects namely: PADIS Phase III (RAF/86/053), Developing a data bank and information service for the management and development of the Kagera Basin Organization (RAF/88/125), and participation of North African countries in PADIS RAF/88/012.

(ii) International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada: computer networking in Africa, (IDR/90/001).

46. Total funds for technical assistance from these sources during 1990-1991 were US$1,860,261. Breakdown by project appears in Annex I.

47. During the period under review January 1990-December 1991, PADIS technical assistance activities included the delivery of training, advisory services and other forms of technical co-operation for ECA member States.

48. Training activities during the period included the holding of national level training courses for staff of PADIS national participating centres, subregional training courses in computerized documentation techniques, and training courses in management of documentation and information centres.

49. The training courses were as follows: six national level courses in PADIS methodologies and the use of mini micro-CDS/ISIS software in processing development information. Countries which benefitted from these courses were Burkina Faso, Ghana, Lesotho, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

50. PADIS also organized two subregional workshops in Padis methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS software for:

(i) Countries covered by the West African MULPOC. Beneficiary countries of this course included Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, Benin, Senegal, Burkina Faso and Guinea.

(ii) Countries comprising the Kagera Basin Organization (KBO). Beneficiary countries of this course which was conducted both in French and English included. Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

51. The total number of individuals trained in these exercises was 182.

52. The area of management of documentation and information centres is gaining much attention in Africa. PADIS' training in this area during the period under review included one regional workshop organized in Harare, Zimbabwe, 10-14 December 1990. A total of 26 participants attended the workshop from Botswana, Lesotho, Kenya, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

53. PADIS is presently co-operating with some universities in implementing its training programme. In this connection, during the period under review, PADIS organized two training courses in PADIS methodologies and the use of micro-CDS/ISIS for staff of the Library School of Makerere University, University of Zambia, ESI, Rabat, Morocco, University of Dakar, University of Ghana, University of Dar-es-Salaam and the Institute of Agricultural Research, Uganda.

54. During the period under review, PADIS fielded 25 advisory missions to member States and regional and subregional institutions. National level advisory missions dealt with assessment of needs in information and documentation, formulation of information policies and plans, design of national/sectoral information systems, choice of information technologies, identification of lead institutions and establishment of subregional centres. Beneficiary countries of these advisory services included: Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Lesotho, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Senegal and Zimbabwe.

55. PADIS also fielded missions to various institutional participating centres, regional and subregional organizations and other international organizations. In this category, the following benefitted:

(i) The Government of Uganda and the German Foundation for International Development, during their seminar on "Development of National Information and Documentation Network for Uganda, 1-9 March 1990.

(ii) Institute of Development Economics and Planning (IDEP) to assess institutional needs for development information management capabilities and its potential as a PADIS institutional participating centre, Dakar, 30 April - 5 May 1990.

(iii) The Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), during their Information Management Curriculum Development Workshop, 21-25 May 1990, Arusha, Tanzania.

(iv) Government of Kenya and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) during their organised workshop on "the development of a national information and documentation network, 30 October - 9 November 1990, Nairobi, Kenya.

(v) The Standing Conference of East, Southern and Central African Librarians; an information system for women and development, Kampala, Uganda, 21-22 June 1990.

(vi) The International Energy Foundation, Tripoli, Libyan-Arab Jamahiriya, on the establishment of an energy data bank, Library and information network, 26 August - 1 September 1990.

(vii) The African Regional Centre for Technology, on the utilization of micro-computers and appropriate software for information processing, Rabat, Morocco, 22 - 25 October 1990.

(viii) The Third Session of the Advisory Committee of the Population Information Network for Africa, Accra, Ghana, 15 - 18 October 1990.

(ix) The African Regional Organization for Standardization (ARSO) for revision of ARSO - DISNET Information Guides, development of a course content for a seminar on information technology and preparation of a programme for the meeting of ARSO - DISNET Advisory Committee, Nairobi, Kenya, 30 July - 8 August 1991.

(x) The first regional meeting of African correspondent institutions of the International Centre for Economic Growth in Nairobi, Kenya, 2 - 5 October 1991.

(xi) The International Energy Foundation for the establishment of a Global Energy Data base, Libya, October 1991.

(xii) The African Regional Centre for Technology (ARCT) on "Use of Computer-mediated communications in Africa, 28 October - 1 November 1991, Nairobi, Kenya.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

56. As already indicated, the ECA technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information sciences continued to focus during the period 1990-1991 on building up national capacities to enable member States to be less dependent on external assistance and to ultimately achieve self-reliance. Independent evaluations of the relevant projects executed by ECA and correspondence from the beneficiary countries indicated that such technical assistance has been generally well appreciated.

57. As in the past, ECA will endeavour to respond positively to country requests for technical assistance. However, in order to facilitate the organization and planning of such assistance in an effective manner, it would be advisable that the relevant requests be sent to ECA, preferably by cable or fax through the local UNDP office, at least one month in advance.

58. Training in planning, statistics, demography and information sciences will continue to be accorded high priority in the coming years. Therefore, support will continue to be provided to the institutions concerned in Africa. Training seminars and workshops in selected areas as well as on-the-job training will also receive due attention as in the past.

59. Finally, it should be pointed out that, in addition to the advisory services reported in the present document, ECA has set up in December 1990, a Multi-disciplinary Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG). It consists of ten advisers from various disciplines as follows: two on economic co-operation and integration and one each in macro-economies, development finance and debt management, public administration and management, social concerns and human resources dimensions of structural adjustment and transformation, statistics and the application of national accounts to development, food and agriculture, environment, energy policies and regional development.

60. The adviser in statistics and application of national accounts to development continues to work closely with the Statistics Division in the field of economic statistics and national accounts and is available to take on advisory missions in that area, even though the emphasis is being put on the multi-disciplinary approach.

61. The Joint Conference is invited to make comments and suggestions on ways and means of improving further ECA technical assistance so that it could be delivered to the full benefit of member States.

ANNEX I

Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	Project Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
		1990	1991	Total
I. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND PLANNING DIVISION (SERPD)				
- UNDP				
Institute for Economic Development Planning (IDEP)	RAF/82/063	746,095	-	746,095
		746.095		746,095
TOTAL SERPD		-	-	-
II. STATISTICS DIVISION				
A - UNFPA				
(i) Regional Advisory Service in Demographic statistics (RASDS)	RAF/88/P01	921,200	936,000	1,857,200
(ii) Customs & Economic Union of Central African/Department for Population Studies	RAF/88/P02	285,990	142,400	427,390
SUB TOTAL (A)		1,206,190	1,078,400	2,284,590

Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	Project Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
		1990	1991	Total
B - UNFPA/Government of Canada Census Training Programe for Sub-Saharan Africa	RAF/87/P03	172,400	227,426	399,826
C - UNDP Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA)	RAF/86/052	599,315	799,300	1,398,615
Total Statistics Division		1,977,905	2,105,126	4,083,031

Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	Project Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
		1990	1991	Total
II. POPULATION DIVISION				
- UNFPA				
(i) Regional Demographic Advisory Services	RAF/88/PO6	367,000	377,000	744,000
(ii) CERPOD	RAF/89/P15	516,500	212,250	728,750
(iii) POPIN-Africa	RAF/88/P16	538,580	249,750	788,330
(iv) IFORD	RAF/88/PO3	897,165	846,500	1,743,665
(v) RIPS	RAF/88/PO4	781,400	611,395	1,392,795
Total Population Division		3,100,645	2,296,895	5,397,540

Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	Project Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
		1990	1991	Total
IV. PAN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (PADIS)				
A. UNDP				
(i) PADIS Phase III	RAF/86/053	634,372	580,529	1,214,901
(ii) Developing a Data Bank and Information Service for the Organization for the Management of the Kagera Basin Organization.	RAF/88/125	99,740	119,963	219,703
(iii) Participation of North African countries in PADIS	RAF/88/012	130,500	127,703	258,203
SUB TOTAL (A)		864,612	828,195	1,692,807

Division/Office Funding Agency and Project Title	Project Number	Approved budget in US dollars		
		1990	1991	Total
B. International Development Research Centre (Canada) Computer Networking in Africa	IRDC/90/001	49,915	117,539	167,454
TOTAL PADIS		914,52	945,73	1,860,261
GRAND TOTAL		6,739,172	5,347,755	12,086,927
- TOTAL UNFPA		4,306,835	3,375,295	7,682,130
- TOTAL UNFPA/GOVERNMENT OF CANADA		172,400	227,426	399,826
- TOTAL UNDP		2,210,022	1,627,495	3,837,517
- TOTAL IDRC		49,915	117,539	167,454

ANNEX II

LIST OF REGIONAL ADVISERS IN POST DURING THE PERIOD

	Programme/Post Description	Duty Station	Entry on duty	Departure
1. **STATISTICS**				
(i) E.A. Colecraft (Ghana)	RASDS; Chief Technichal Adviser, Demographic Statistics/Civil Registration (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	July 1978	In post
(ii) Hamady Sow (Mali)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Demographic Statistics (French-speaking countries)	Niamey MULPOC	July 1980	In post
(iii) Jean-Marc Hie (Cameroon)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Data Processing (bilingual)	Addis Ababa	March 1985	In post
(iv) Oumar Bocoum (Mali)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Census/ Survey Cartography (French-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	January 1983	In post

	Programme/Post Description	Duty Station	Entry on duty	Departure
(v) R.R. Tripathi (India)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Census/ Survey Cartography (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	September 1986	In post
(vi) A. Mayouya (Congo)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Civil Registration (French-speaking countries)	Yaoundé MULPOC	September 1990	In post
(vii) Zewdie Gebeyehu (Ethiopia)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Data Processing (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	July 1989	November 1990
viii) Robert de Clercq (Belgium)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Data Processing (bilingual)	Addis Ababa	May 1991	In post
(xi) J.O. Onsembe (Kenya)	RASDS; Regional Adviser in Sampling (English-speaking countries	Addis Ababa	August 1989	In post

LIST OF REGIONAL ADVISERS IN POST DURING THE PERIOD (Cont'd)

		Programme/Post Description	Duty Station	Entry on duty	Departure
(x)	M. Chaari (Tunisia)	SDPA; Household Survey Specialist, Chief Technical Adviser	Addis Ababa	December 1986	In post
(xi)	R.J. Pember (Australia)	ILO/ECA Regional Adviser in Household Surveys, AHSCP	Addis Ababa	January 1986	In post
(xii)	L. Mbong-Mbong (Cameroon)	SDPA; National Accounts Specialist	Addis Ababa	September 1987	April 1990
(xiii)	K.C. Wang 1/ (China)	Regional Adviser in National Accounts (UN regular programme of technical co-operation countries)	Addis Ababa	February 1990	In post

1/ Attached to the ECA Multi-disciplinary Regional Advisory Group (MRAG) as from 1 January 1991.

	Programme/Post Description	Duty Station	Entry on duty	Departure
(xiv) K.K. Bockor (Togo)	SDPA; Statistical Training Adviser (French-speaking	Addis Ababa	January 1983	In post
(xv) J. Banda (Zambia)	SDPA; Statistical Training Adviser/ Household Survey Specialist (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	November 1990	In post
(xvi) J. Tayo (Cameroon)	UDEAC/DEP, Chief Technical Adviser	Bangui	November 1989	In post
(xvii) A. Mayouya (Congo)	UDEAC/DEP; Expert in Demographic and Social Statistics	Bangui	July 1985	August 1990
2. POPULATION				
(i) K.V. Ramachandran (India)	Regional Demographic Adviser (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	September 1981	In post

		Programme/Post Description	Duty Station	Entry on duty	Departure
(ii)	Pierre Fokom (Cameroon)	Regional Demographic Adviser (French-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	June 1983	December 1990
(iii)	Moulie A. Gibril (The Gambia)	Regional Demographic Adviser (English-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	May 1987	In post
(iv)	R. Dackam Ngatchou (Cameroon)	Regional Demographic Adviser (French-speaking countries)	Addis Ababa	May 1991	In post

ABBREVIATIONS

RASDS: Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics

SDPA: Statistical Development Programme for Africa

AHSCP: African Household Survey Capability Programme

UDEAC/DEP : Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale/ Département pour les études de population.